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Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01344 101301Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------101303Z 104927 /42
O 101228Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2121

S E C R E T USNATO 1344

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DEFENSE ONLY

FOR SECRETARY BROWN AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCAULIFFE FROM
AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AWACS

SUBJECT: DEBRIEF BY AMBASSADOR PAULS ON MARCH 9 DISCUSSION OF
AWACS AND TANKS AT FRG FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL (FSC)

1. AMBASSADOR PAULS (PROTECT ABSOLUTELY) DEBRIEFED ME THIS
MORNING ON THE MEETING YESTERDAY (MARCH 9) OF THE FRG'S FEDERAL
SECURITY COUNCIL (FSC), WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY, AMONG OTHERS,
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, MOD LEBER, FONMIN GENSCHER, ECONMIN
FRIEDRICHS, AND FINMIN APEL.

2. THE FSC ENGAGED IN AN INTENSE DISCUSSION OF RECENT PRESS
ITEMS CONCERNING THE US ARMY REPORT ON THE RELATIVE MERITS
OF THE XM-1 AND LEOPARD TANKS. THE SENSE OF THE MEETING
WAS ONE OF NEAR-INDIGNATION AT WHAT SOME PERCEIVED TO HAVE
BEEN HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE CONDUCT BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE
PREMISES. THE SENSE WAS ALSO THAT, PRIOR TO ANY PUBLIC
RELEASE OF MATERIAL ON THIS SUBJECT, THE US SHOULD HAVE
INFORMED THE FRG PRIVATELY CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE
SECRET

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COMPETITION AND THE CRITERIA USED IN ARRIVING AT THOSE
RESULTS.

3. MORE FUNDAMENTALLY, THE SENSE OF THE MEETING WAS THAT,
ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS SPOKEN OFTEN AND FABORABLE
OF A TWO-WAY STREET IN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT, IN PRACTICE
ONLY A ONE-WAY STREET FROM THE US TO EUROPE SEEMS TO BE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, WITH A
VIEW TO LEBER'S MEETING WITH YOU MEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON,
THE CABINET ISSUED A GUIDANCE MANDATE TO LEBER CONSISTING

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ESSENTIALLY OF HIS RECENT ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER TO HIM.

4. FINALLY, THE SENSE OF THE FSC MEETING WAS
TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITIVE LINKAGE BETWEEN US RESPONSE ON THE
TANK ISSUE AND FRG RESPONSE ON THE NATO AEW ISSUE; IN SHORT, THE
FRG'S DECISION ON THE LATTER WOULD DEPEND UPON THE US
DECISION ON THE FORMER.

5. I TOLD PAULS THAT I STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT MOD LEBER
SHOULD APPROACH HIS MEETING WITH YOU MUCH MORE CALMLY THAN
THE SENSE OF THE FSC MEETING SUGGESTED. I TOLD HIM THAT I
HAD THE HIGHEST CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE POSITIONS
TAKEN BY THE US GOVERNMENT, AND THAT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT HIS
MEETING WITH YOU WOULD SERVE TO CLEAR UP UNFORTUNATE
MISUNDERSTANDINGS EVIDENTLY CREATED BY RECENT PRESS REPORTS.

6. COMMENT: I STILL DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION
ON NATO AEW IS BEYOND REMEDY ONCE YOU AND LEBER MEET.
IT IS OF COURSE SELF-EVIDENT THAT THE RECENT PRESS STORIES
ON THE ARMY TANK TEST REPORT COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE COME AT A
WORSE TIME.STRAUSZ-HUPE

SECRET

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